

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114(c)
U.S.Appln. No. 09/960,345
Attorney Docket No. Q65935

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawing has been amended to replace the label “fig. 1” with --FIGURE--.

Attachments: Annotated Marked-Up Drawing
1 Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

In the present Amendment, the drawing filed September 24, 2001, has been amended to replace the label "fig. 1" with --FIGURE--.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite --A rubber-based composite material to be arranged between a carcass layer and a sidewall for reinforcing a tire--. Claim 6 has been amended to recite --A tire wherein a reinforcing layer comprising a rubber-based composite material according to claim 1 is between a carcass layer and a sidewall--. These amendments are supported by the specification, for example, at page 9, line 19 to page 10, line 6 and the drawings. Claim 1 has also been amended for clarity.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-6 will be all the claims pending in the application.

The drawing has been objected to.

In response, Applicants have amended the drawing to replace the label "fig. 1" with --FIGURE--, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-6 as amended are not indefinite. In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 1, from which Claims 2-6 depend, to recite --the coating being formed the surface of filaments--, and --a rubber that adheres to the coating forming a continuous layer and covering the non-woven fabric--, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

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In Paragraph No. 8 of the Office Action, Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Yoshikawa et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,872,932) in view of JP 10-053010.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-6 as amended are patentable over the cited references, because the present invention provides the unexpectedly superior results.

In Table 1 of the present specification, Comparative Example was prepared using a reinforcing member containing a non-woven fabric without coating, which corresponds to the example disclosed in JP '010. Both driving stability and practical durability of Comparative Example and the inventive examples were tested and compared. As shown in Table 2, Comparative Example showed driving stability and practical durability indexes of 100. Whereas the inventive examples show driving stability and practical durability indexes of 110-119 and 174-183, respectively. These results clearly demonstrate that the present invention is superior to Comparative Example in terms of both driving stability and practical durability.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not obvious over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In Paragraph No. 10 of the Office Action, Claims 1-6 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claims 1, 2 and 21 of copending Appln. No. 10/019,250 in view of JP '010.

In response, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 21, 2004

Figure
~~Fig. 1~~

